

Building Future Altoona Today

SOAR believes in rewarding the students in our
community for outstanding academic

achievement in our
schools. Without the
help of the SOAR
program, the
opportunities for
these well-deserving
students would be
extremely limited.
Building the future
of our community
today is a passion
of the SOAR

program as we continue to identify
students who believe in their futures, their
schools, their teachers, and their
communities.

Study, Overcome, Achieve, and Reward



“Tomorrow will be better for
as long as America keeps
alive the ideals of freedom
and a better life.”

—Walt Disney



Altoona Area School District Foundation
www.aasdfoundation.org
1415 Sixth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602
Telephone: (814) 946-8424
Fax Number: (814): 946-8565
E-mail: tbradley@aasdcats.com

**The Altoona Area School
District**

*Study,
Overcome,
Achieve,
and Reward*



Altoona Area School District Foundation

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AASD Project SOAR

SOARing toward the future

Launched in 2008 at the Altoona Area Junior High School in Altoona, PA, the SOAR program continues to receive rave reviews as it helps to identify motivated junior high students who maintain good grades, attendance, and behavior. During the five year program, SOAR provides a structured orientation and mentoring program to assist these students toward their goal of a post-secondary education. Those students who successfully complete the program will receive financial aid to assist them with post-high school education.



Identifying Students

Teams of teachers in seventh and eighth grades at the Altoona Area Junior High School select students who satisfy program guidelines including outstanding academic achievement, attendance, and behavior. Teachers submit these names to the SOAR Steering Committee. Individual interviews take place with both the student and his or her parents at which time the families who desire to participate sign a commitment form to the program, its policies, and beliefs.



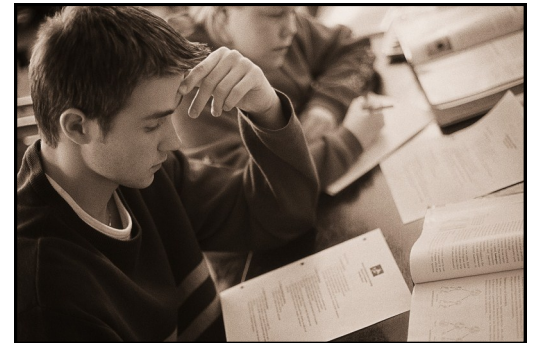
Support

During the initial orientation, students, parents, and the SOAR Steering Committee members review all terms of the participation contract including the responsibilities of the student and the family. To assist with this, the SOAR Steering Committee assigns both an in-school and out-of-school mentor to support, assist and encourage the student and his or her family.

Requirements

Students within the SOAR program are required to maintain very strict requirements during their time in high school. Students must:

- Maintain a minimum attendance record of 90%
- Maintain a minimum grade point average of 85%
- Participate in monthly SOAR activities
- Speak openly with mentors and advisors regarding any issues which impede their progress
- Continue to develop a passion for learning
- Identify career and life goals



For more information, contact program coordinators:

Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke
- orourke1248@comcast.net

Mrs. Patricia Labriola
- palabriola53@gmail.com